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An Interesting Incident

Milikan Dam, located about nine miles east of Napa, and reached via the Atlas Way Road, impounds the water for Napa City and creates a lake about a mile in length and of irregular width. A narrow footpath follows the shore line, and on the western side about midway is a cliff, between fifty and seventy-five feet in height, in which are several crevices or recesses. From previous experiences the writer believed a Pacific Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus pacificus*, was roosting there during the day, and for the purpose of locating this roost a visit was made on Sunday morning, July 21, 1940, about 7 o'clock.

While descending from the top of the cliff to the shore-line pathway an interesting incident happened. The writer saw three deer, two bucks and a doe, about 150 yards distant, and at once partly concealed himself behind a small oak tree. Both bucks were yearlings, but one was larger and apparently older than the other. The smaller one had two prongs three to four inches in length, and still in the velvet, and the larger, one prong about eight inches in length, clear of the velvet and very sharp at its end, the other prong being about half clear of the velvet. The deer were walking along the water's edge toward the cliff, and as they approached to within about fifty feet of the writer, he whistled. The deer stopped, threw their heads upwards, ears forward and surveyed the situation, but seemingly not unduly alarmed, they proceeded on their way. When about thirty feet distant, again a whistle, again the stopping, heads upwards, ears forward, trying to determine the cause of the sound and whence it came. Still unsuccessful, but now a bit nervous, although not greatly alarmed, they continued on their way until they reached a point almost opposite the writer and again the whistle, another stop and in about a second a loud splash was heard. The younger buck was in the lake swimming in a direct line toward the opposite shore about an eighth of a mile distant. Within another second or so another splash and the doe was in the water following the leader, and then a third splash with the larger buck now in, all swimming in the same direction, keeping an equal distance apart, rapidly but silently making for the other side.

It was a very beautiful sight, these animals swimming across the lake. When they reached the shore, they bounded up the hillside to a small plateau about one hundred and fifty yards above the water's edge, where they stopped, looked across the lake, and then quietly proceeded on their way.

The writer then walked to the water's edge, followed the pathway which passes the face of the cliff, looked into its various recesses and finally succeeded in flushing an adult Pacific Horned Owl, which flew over the water and alighted on a cliff directly opposite. Still searching the various recesses, an immature owl, about as large as the adult, but with downy feathers, was located, and here it sat, looking at the writer and blinking its eyes. Apparently unafraid, it refused to fly, remaining in the same spot, but curiously looking downward. Not wishing to frighten it, the writer continued on his way, with the owl still in the same position as when first noted.

Joseph J. Webb, San Francisco, California. July 23, 1940.

July Field Trip

The July field trip was taken on the 14th along Land's End to the Cliff House and thence into Golden Gate Park as far as the Chain of Lakes. The day was overcast but very pleasant for walking, and, in fact, quite warm at times. It was interesting to watch flock after flock of Brandt Cormorants flying south in long lines or in V formation as Canada Geese fly. Thirty-five species were seen, as follows:

At Land's End and the Cliff House:

Brown Pelican	Red-shafted Flicker	Pileolated Warbler
Brandt Cormorant	Cliff Swallow	English Sparrow
Western Gull	Raven	Pine Siskin
Heermann Gull	Barlow Chickadee	Green-backed Goldfinch
California Murre	Vigors Wren	Point Pinos Junco
Pigeon Guillemot	Wrentit	Nuttall Sparrow
Anna Hummingbird	Robin	Song Sparrow
Allen Hummingbird	Russet-backed Thrush	

In Golden Gate Park:

Pied-billed Grebe and young	Kingfisher	English Sparrow
California Heron	Barn Swallow	Brewer Blackbird
Mallard	Barlow Chickadee	House Finch
Ruddy Duck	Creeper	Pine Siskin
Quail	Vigors Wren	S. F. Towhee
Coot and young	Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
Anna Hummingbird	Russet-backed Thrush	Song Sparrow
Allen Hummingbird	Pileolated Warbler	

Seven members attended as follow: Messrs. and Mesdames Dunshee, Stephens; Misses Paroni, Walker; Mr. Myer and six guests.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.



Nesting of Slender-billed Nuthatches

On April 13, 1940, Mr. J. D. Graham of Benicia and I were studying the bird life of some oak-covered hills two miles north of Cordelia, Solano County, California.

We were watching a pair of Lawrence Goldfinches which we suspected had a nest nearby, when a Slender-billed Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*, attracted our attention and caused us to wonder if it was feeding young birds or the female on the nest. The bird appeared anxious when we approached a certain medium-sized white oak, but though we searched all the limbs carefully, there appeared to be no hole of any kind where it might be nesting in this tree. We finally gave up and left the scene,—but I wasn't satisfied and a little later we returned to this white oak and sat down on the ground not far from it. The nuthatch came shortly with a worm, paused a moment at a crack in the trunk only one foot up from the ground, and slipped inside, a location which no one would have guessed was a nesting cavity. After the bird had departed, a little tapping brought its mate from the hole where it was found she had five eggs in a nest of feathers and fur. This seems to be a very low nesting site, as Dawson says they "usually nest high."

On April 20th another nuthatch nest with one egg was found fifteen feet up in a natural cavity of a white oak limb, and on the same day still another nest was discovered five feet up in the trunk of a white oak in a natural cavity, where Mr. Graham's periscope showed there was a ring of little bills pointing upwards in the back of the hole. This periscope is an interesting invention by Mr. Graham, who is a science teacher in the Benicia High School. It consists of a hollow tube, small enough to enter a hole of a Willow Woodpecker or larger. In one end of the tube he has installed a prism and beyond this a small flashlight globe, which latter is connected by wires to a small flashlight battery. Holding the tubing in

the left hand, it is inserted into the hole, and the globe is lighted by pressing a push button with the right hand. Looking through this tube, the contents of the nest may be seen without opening up the hole or destroying the cavity or nest.

A fourth nest of the Slender-billed Nuthatch was found on April 28th. This nest was sixteen feet up in a natural cavity of a dead white oak stub, and contained young birds. All of these nests were located by following the birds until they entered a cavity. Needless to say, we didn't always have success, as some of the birds we followed either had no nest or did not choose to show it to us.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California. July 15, 1940.



August Field Trip

August field trip was taken on the 11th to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. The day was overcast.

Quail, Robins, Spotted Towhees, Juncos and Nuttall Sparrows were numerous. The young of Quail, Robins, Spotted Towhees, Western Flycatchers, Hutton Vireos and Nuttall Sparrows were seen. An Allen Hummingbird's nest containing two dead young ones was found. A list of twenty-six species was seen as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Pileolated Warbler
Mallard	Barn Swallow	English Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Barlow Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Quail	Coast Bush-tit	Green-backed Goldfinch
Coot	Creepers	San Francisco Towhee
Western Gull	Vigors Wren	Junco
Anna Hummingbird	Western Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
Allen Hummingbird	Russet-backed Thrush	Song Sparrow
Western Flycatcher	Hutton Vireo	

Members attending were Misses Blake, Cohn; Mr. Myer; Mr. and Mrs. Stephens and two guests.

Laura A. Stephens, Historian.



July Meeting: The 275th regular meeting was held on the 11th in the Ferry Building, with twenty-three members and guests present. President B. K. Dunshee presided.

The following observations were reported:

Mrs. Mary L. Courtright, Larkspur, June 17th, male Western Tanager.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly: Bay Farm Island, June 30th, 600± Godwits, Willets, a few Dowitchers, 50 Black-bellied Plovers, small flock of Western Sandpipers, Snowy Plover, several Hudsonian Curlews, 24 immature and two adult Bonaparte Gulls; approach Dumbarton Bridge, July 3rd, Caspian Terns and Avocets nesting, eggs and young; Forster Terns, two Black Turnstones, 100+ Western Sandpipers, Snowy Plover, one Northern Phalarope; Leslie Salt Works, many Avocets, Lesser and Greater Yellow-legs; Bay Farm Island, three Hudsonian Curlews; Alameda, Godwits, Willets, Dowitchers, Western Sandpipers, Hudsonian Curlews.

Mr. W. J. H. Hasselbrock addressed the meeting on the subject of bees. He told us that the books and other writings on bees far outnumbered all the volumes written on birds, proving man's great interest in the subject.

We learned that the history and culture of bees dates back to ancient Egyptian times, when taxes in wax and honey were levied. The ancient Chinese kept bees and ascribed to them superstitious attributes. The building of a new home, commenced while the bees were swarming, was assured of success. The ancient Greeks and Romans offered sacrifices of honey to their gods. We were reminded that the story of honey figures prominently in the Bible. Following these references, Mr. Hasselbrock displayed several bee-hives, one conically shaped being built of straw, a type which is still commonly used in Europe. Another of modern

construction contained live bees, and several separate frames showed various stages of honeycomb development.

How a swarm of bees on its own in the woods can be taken and placed in a hive, and the different functions of the queen, workers, and drones and their life history made a most fascinating story.

Much interest was shown by questions asked at the close. That subjects other than ornithological ones may be both appropriate for our meetings and profitable to our members was clearly demonstrated.



Audubon Notes

September Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 12th, at 8 o'clock, in the Ferry Building.

The speaker will be Mr. Frank G. Watson, taking for his subject "The White-tailed Kite."

Members may bring guests.



September Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Alameda to study shore-birds. Take the 11:41 Alameda Encinal train to High Street south. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. Kelly.



August Meeting: The 276th regular meeting was held on Thursday, the 8th, in the Ferry Building, with only fourteen members present. President B. K. Dunshee presided.

"Vacation Experiences" were to have taken the place of the customary lecture, but judging from the small attendance and the slight response to the subject it was evident that vacations were still in full swing. However, as on a former and similar occasion, we had the good fortune to have Mr. John H. Baker, Executive Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies, attend the meeting. Upon being asked by President Dunshee for a few remarks, Mr. Baker gave us a very in-

teresting talk on various activities of the National Association. He also told of the Southern California clubs acquiring bird sanctuaries, and about various problems which the National meets with when acquiring tracts of land for wildlife refuges.

Mr. Baker had come to California primarily to make a survey for a permanent summer camp for bird lovers, and to lay plans for personally conducted tours by a competent leader. This will require all-time employment of the right man as there will be many other things for him to do in connection with wildlife conservation, and educational work throughout the year.

Mr. Baker told us something about what is being done in California in regard to the study and preservation of the Condor. This project, started about a year and a half ago, has brought out some very encouraging information and will be carried forward until it is quite complete.

These occasional visits by Mr. Baker are enjoyed and appreciated by our members. Besides being the means by which we learn something of wildlife conservation in other parts of the country, they give us a better understanding of the objectives of the National Association of Audubon Societies and make us feel better acquainted.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

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For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. B. K. Dunshee.....	Room 714, 245 Market St., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.